



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Following a somewhat unseasonal winter it is now springtime with snowdrops, daffodils and croci in flower. Winter has passed and it is only a few months since our last newsletter.

The last year has passed so quickly and the next OBA year is almost upon us. It is great to see the School in such great health having recently been rated #30 on the Sunday Times 100 list. We will hold our AGM at Drapers' Hall on the 1 March and all are welcome. At the meeting we will welcome Julian Blake as our new President and thank Amanda Campbell for her year as our landmark first female alumni President. This will then be swiftly followed by the University Dinner in Cambridge



on the 12 March at Trinity Hall and then the 5 and 10 Years On Reception on 6 May. The last year has certainly been busy, just as this year promises to be the same. We have held and supported some excellent events: OBs' Day; Northern and University (Oxford) Dinners; Careers Day and Fair; Foundation Business Breakfasts; OBA Annual Dinner and Ladies Evening. We have seen a greatly expanded Facebook group and increased social media activity, as well as the traditional website, e-newsletter and the printed newsletter.

We are a successful association working for our members but we cannot stand still, as we live in an ever changing world. It is with this in mind the OBA committees are working very hard to ensure that the Association is structured and positioned to ensure that we can continue to meet and expand on our goals as our membership continues to increase, especially as we now have over 4500 registered members.

I would like to take this opportunity to restate our goals for our members and emphasise what we are working toward as an association and hope

that you will join us in working to achieve these aims.

- To encourage members world-wide to be actively in touch with each other, and to participate in OBA organised events and initiatives.
- To maintain a strong relationship with, and awareness of, Bancroft's School, and encourage direct involvement between the School and members of the Association.
- To promote the necessary organisation, and to undertake such actions as are considered necessary in the pursuit of the above two objectives including, where appropriate, the provision of financial support.

I look forward to seeing many of you at OBA events during this year and encourage you to keep in touch with the School and each other. If you have any ideas or issues that you would like to raise, please feel free to contact me direct - chairman@bancroftians.net. "Floreat Bancroftia".

Stephen Dodd
(OB 1972-79)
OBA Chairman

OB NEWS

Old Bancroftians *Oli Budino* and *Gemma McDonald* (OBs 1997-2004) were married in the School chapel on 4 July 2015.



Gavin Cross (OB 1981-1988) is the Strength and Conditioning Coach with the New Zealand Tall Blacks Basketball team, and recently returned to London to play an international series vs GB Basketball. He is also a strength Coach with the Oklahoma City Thunder NBA team.

Robin Hicks (OB 1954-1961) has been elected Chair of the Trustees of the Avon Valley Heritage Trust.



Anthony Pelan (OB 1989-1991) recently retired from the Army as a major after 20 years' service with the Royal Logistic Corps, having served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and with the UN in Cyprus. He has since transferred his management skills to the NHS as an operations manager.

Daniel Smith (OB 1994-2001) married *Laura Evans* (OB 1996-



2003) on a sunny day on 22 August 2015 at Gosfield Hall, Braintree, where there were many Old Bancroftians in attendance.

Dr Michael Ward (OB 1958-1964) is now an Hon Member of the Resuscitation Council UK having been its Chairman for two years, and an Hon Member of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland having been its Vice President. He was also recently the Medical On Set adviser for the recent film "The Danish Girl".

Gemma Wicks (OB 1991-1998) recently appeared on the BBC quiz show Pointless. Gemma and her cousin Clive made it through to the final round and although they didn't win the jackpot on offer that day, having won the show they did leave with the 'highly-coveted' Pointless trophy!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 1 March 2016
OBA AGM
Drapers' Hall

Saturday 12 March 2016
Cambridge Dinner at
Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Friday 6 May 2016
5 and 10 Year Reunion
Bancroft's School

Sunday 3 July 2016
OBs' Day 2016
Bancroft's School

Saturday 1 October 2016
Northern Dinner
Rossett

Friday 21 October 2016
OBA Annual Dinner
Bancroft's School

Sunday 2 July 2017
OBs' Day 2017
Bancroft's School

OBA MEMBERS DIRECTORY

The OBA General Committee are looking to produce an updated OBA Membership Directory listing OBs with years attended, postal address and contact telephone number.

If you would prefer not to be listed in the directory (which will be accessible by members and officers of the OBA) you have the opportunity to opt out by contacting Susan Day at the OBA Office on 0208 5065714 or via email susan.day@bancrofts.org.

EMMA KERR OB 1991-1998 AND HER ADVENTURES AT THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



On Thursday 19th November Emma Kerr, Acting Headteacher at Egloskerry Primary School, attended a private viewing of the new Enduring Eye exhibition in London at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS). This exhibition is the first time that Frank Hurley's iconic photographic record from Shackleton's 'Endurance Expedition' 1914-1917 has been displayed in this way. New technologies mean that the photos have been enhanced and enlarged; demonstrating Hurley's photographic talent alongside the bravery and determination of the crew within the harsh Antarctic landscape. During the viewing, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal gave a speech on the legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton's legendary Endurance Expedition, paying particular tribute to the contribution made to teamwork and resilience over a century ago.

For nearly 10 years, Emma has been using 'Shackleton's Endurance Expedition' as a topic focus to deliver a term's worth of work within a Primary

School setting. She has written a variety of articles for the RGS and Geographical Association on this topic and has her own website (www.shackletoninschools.com), Facebook and Twitter feed to encourage and support other schools and teachers to also use this topic in their teaching. Emma explains: "This expedition provides children with a geographical and historical context in which to learn in a meaningful and cross-curricular context; delivering high quality literacy and numeracy outcomes. In addition pupils develop their personal and emotional resilience by learning about 'Leadership' and 'Team work' in addition to curriculum subjects. Pupils can explore the interaction between human and physical geographies using the Shackleton Expedition as a line of enquiry. Shackleton proves that humans can achieve amazing new endeavours in a world in which everything can seem to have been discovered. We as teachers are in the privileged position of re-enacting the fascination, awe and wonder of this remote polar landscape. By bringing this experience alive via geographical role-play stimuli, applying knowledge of environments and developing an understanding of the interconnectedness of our world, we can nurture curiosity. Our pupils are, after all, the new explorers."

Emma Kerr's interest in Antarctica stems from her great grandfather who was the second engineer on Shackleton's Endurance Expedition

and Chief Engineer on Shackleton's final voyage – 'The Quest'.

Emma is currently working with other local primary schools and Anthony Jinman (Polar Explorer and CEO of 'Education Through Expeditions', ETE) on developing this topic further. Teachers and pupils will be taking part in a pilot 'Live Learning' project which involves the development of a real-time, on-line learning platform with links to a range of subject specialists to support mastery within the area of learning. This will be starting in January 2016 as all schools will be collaborating with 'Exploring Polar Kingdoms'.

Emma would like to thank the old Geography and History departments; especially Mr Watkins, Mr O'Connor Thompson and Mr and Mrs Taylor!



5 AND 10 YEAR REUNION – BANCROFT'S SCHOOL

This year's 5 and 10 Years On Reunion will take place at Bancroft's School on Friday 6th May 2016 at 7pm in the Dining Hall.

This year's event is for all those who left in 2005 and 2010 and their contemporaries who did not enter the Sixth Form. Full details will be distributed shortly to those OBs for whom we have contact details

for. If you are able to assist by promoting this event to your year group through social media then please contact Susan Day OBA Administrator susan.day@bancrofts.org.

KATIE ROGERS (OB 2004-2015) – OPERATION RALEIGH



Thirty-one years ago, my father Andrew Rogers (OB, 1972-79) spent three months in Costa Rica as a volunteer on one of the first Raleigh Expeditions to take place there. He worked on three very different but equally as worthwhile projects: a month on an archaeological dig of an indigenous village, a month helping to build a bridge over a river to aid schoolchildren getting to their school during the rainy season and a month on an environmental project studying the effects of deforestation on the frog population of the rainforests. He says of his time, "My expedition gave me first-hand experience of some of the World's challenges, broadened my horizons and helped to make me a more rounded person. It was tough but hugely rewarding". My father believes Operation Raleigh did fantastic work supporting scientific, community and environmental projects in remote places in the world and its successor Raleigh International, continues to do so today.

I'm also an OB now and in my first year studying Geography at Durham University. This summer I will be following in my father's footsteps as a Raleigh Volunteer in Costa Rica, although for just seven weeks, where I will be working on community and environmental projects. Raleigh works with the national parks system and people who live on the fringes of the parks to encourage them to adopt more sustainable livelihoods. Currently Raleigh groups are working towards completing a trail over the Gamba River to allow rangers to reach more remote spots to protect the wildlife, such as the 59 species of bats and the jaguar. Indigenous groups across Costa Rica experience a higher infant, child, and general mortality rate as well as higher rates of malnutrition and disease than the rest of the population, often from largely preventable diseases. Raleigh works with these communities and the government to increase the provision and use of education and healthcare.

I know the expedition will be extremely physical and involve hard work, but I expect it to be very rewarding as it will expand my horizons and I will be able to help make a difference to a vulnerable environment and community. It will take me out of my comfort zone as I explore a completely different natural environment and learn about a new culture and way of life.

One thing which Raleigh asked in 1981 and still asks is that all

volunteers undertake fundraising to support its work. I have been given a rather frightening target of £2550 - as my major fundraiser I am cycling the distance of the width of Costa Rica which is 274km (170miles). This is, coincidentally, the distance of the cycle route *Way of the Roses*, from Morecambe to Bridlington, which I plan to cycle in two or three days. My dad is cycling with me and we have both started our training; most of our previous cycling has been recreational, so it will be a test. While I will be raising money for Raleigh, my dad is raising money for the Children's Heart Federation which is a cause close to my parents' hearts.

We both have Justgiving pages, and any support from members of the Old Bancroftian community would be much appreciated. Please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/Katie-Rogers96/> and <https://www.justgiving.com/andrew-rogers25/>



Andrew Rogers on his Raleigh Expedition

OLD BANCROFTIANS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London at 6.15pm on Tuesday 1 March.

Refreshments will be served from 5.45pm and after the AGM, we will be adjourning to the Phoenix Pub on Throgmorton Street where some

food and the first drink will be on the OBA!

Please go to www.bancroftians.net for the agenda.

ANSWERS TO SPOT THE TEACHER ON PAGE 8

1975

Sitting: D.H. Giles, C.M. Denyer, B.J. Franklin, G.N.E. Lageard, R.F. Millett, I.M. Richardson, R.H. Bradshaw, R.L. Bowley, B.C. Collyer, Mrs J.C. Giles

Middle Row: C.S.O'Connor-Thompson, P.J.C. Murray, Miss M. Paul, Miss C. Colinese, D. Copsey, R.E. Mackey, R.B. Baker, A.V.G. Hagedon, C.M. Dolan, R.H. Curtis, E.J. Richardson, G.C. Hale

Back Row: J.D. Pearce, K.J. Delaney, J.P.E. Betts, J.W. Ferris, K. Ferdinando, R.W.A. Messenger, The Rev J.L.M. Parsons, J.G. Anderson, J.G. Bromfield, M.R. Burke, D.J. Hawkins, A.M. Pourgourides, M. Connelly, J. Ford

2009

Front Row: Joe Layburn, Mandy Wainwright, Jackie Robbins, Richard Channer, Mark Dixon, Chris Curl, Mary Ireland, Jeremy Bromfield, Anne Taylor, Chris Butler, Trevor Ward, Liz Channer, Pamela Tindall, Cheryl Edwards

2nd Row: Hazel Andrews, Steve Woolley, John Lever, Pam Telford, Chris Taylor, Andy McLeod, Nick Gleeson, Nick Poore, Bob Tatam, Chris Bates, Alex Krzyz, Lindsay Gibbon, Anne Scurfield, Penny Thompson, Catherine Tootell, Matt Capuano

3rd Row: Stuart Hunn, Steve Burton, Jonty Pollard, Graham Welstead, Jane Coleman, Neil Jaques, Enid Weaver, Claude Lavender, Christine Rampton, Roger Bluff, Ros Porter, Helen Prescott-Morin, Jo Green, Neil Goalby, Naomi Doctors

4th Row: ? Matthew Piper, Martin Flaherty, Nick Lee, Kevin Gallagher, ?, Ann Hunter, Sandeep Bhangal, Paul Caira, Anthony Smethurst, Dom Argyle, Melanie Baker, Rob Hitching, Olivia Firek, Emily Tynan, Victoria Burns

5th Row: Louis Taylor,?, Kerstin Dixon, Luke Brennand, Melanie Wright, Richard Bustin, John Wunderle, Karen Yelverton, Gulam Ismail, Simon Oakes, Daniella Mardell, Sue Jones, Helen Gartland, Sam Hawkins, Natalie Rees

6th Row: ?,?,? Lisa Life, Adam Baum, Cathy Pluck, Sarah James, Anna Carter, Christina Biston, Rob Faiers, Liz Norris, Alex Adams

OBS' DAY 3 JULY 2016

The countdown has begun to OBs' Day 2016 with OB Chris Aulman already organising the 60 years on group. If you started in the Thirds in 1976 or 1966 and can act as convenor for other traditional reunion groups, namely the 40 and 50 years on groups, (although we are happy to encourage other groups as well!) please do let Susan Day know at the OBA Office. As well as the traditional events of the day, chapel service, wreath laying, lunch, cricket and netball, there will also be plenty more for all members of the family including Mr Happy, the children's entertainer, music, bar, bbq and swimming. Not least a tour of the School and a great chance to simply catch up and meet friends old and new.

For more information contact Susan Day at susan.day@bancrofts.org

OB BLAZE(RS) OF GLORY

Would you like to own an OBA Blazer in full OBA colours? Made from quality wool/cotton and available made to measure in both a Men and Ladies fit.

This special limited availability offer is available to all our members made to measure for just £180 each including delivery (UK only).

If you are interested in ordering or would like more details then please contact Steve Dodd, OBA Chairman, at chairman@bancroftians.net.



GOLFERS TEE OFF

The Old Bancroftian Golf Society has been a thriving group for many decades now and we are looking to expand our membership through novices to single handicapped players.

We can accommodate you all in our varied spring/summer program with matches and competitions to suit all. At many of these events you can bring a friend, including our Autumn Tour in mid-September that has seen us playing in France, Belgium and Holland these past three years.

Aside from our own internal all day competitions, we have many matches against other Old Boys teams that start late afternoon enabling those of you who are still working to participate. Most of the matches take place in South Essex.

If you are a single figure handicapper we have a number of events you might be interested in, namely the national Grafton Morrish competition, the Essex Public Schools Scratch Foursomes and our own Scratch event.

As an incentive to encourage new members we will waive the first year membership fee (£12).

Please contact our Secretary, Adam Kodish at adam.kodish@ntlworld.com or 0208 551 7072 if we have managed to excite your interest. You will be assured of a very warm welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Paul Clarke, 2016 Captain (OB 1961-1968)

OBITUARIES AND NOTICES

Peter William Baker (OB 1944-1950) lived in Wanstead throughout his career at Bancrofts, being taught by the likes of Dickie Dale, Con Owens, Taffy Jenkins, Kentfield, nice Mr Wheeler and Houston!

In 1950 he joined Barclays Bank in Ferndown, Dorset, until called-up for army National Service, mainly spent in Egypt when President Nasser was making life so difficult that they weren't allowed to leave camp unescorted.

Upon returning to Barclays Bank, Peter met and eventually married Linda who was the love of his life.

A couple of years ago, they moved to the Plymouth area to be near one of their daughters who has been a tower of strength to Linda since Peter was diagnosed with dementia.

He died in Derriford Hospital, Plymouth on 26 October 2015 followed by his funeral on Friday 13 November 2015. The family intend to take his ashes back to the lovely little church by the river at West Parley, near Ferndown where Peter was Treasurer for many years.

He always regretted not being able to attend OBs' Day during recent years.

Dr George 'Douglas' Duthie (OB 1931-1938) passed away in October. He was a lecturer at Aberdeen University in Classical philosophy.

During the 90s, as an OB, George used to frequent the SCR after school, usually on the pretext of having something to offer the library or the classics department, though as he became a paterfamilias, typically occupying the same chair, pretext fell away to simple sociability. I for one certainly enjoyed his company and conversation and he was kind enough to give the occasional lecture to the sixth form. Two occasions stand out. The first was when he addressed a group in the Lecture Theatre on

moral motivation in Jane Austen. Without reference to notes he quoted whole passages and then set about bringing out the fine moral discriminations that might so easily be overlooked. It was a hugely instructive and informative occasion for all of us in the audience. The second was when he gave an account of the Romantic Movement to a select group. I remember being struck by the fact that his style of teaching gave rise to the sense that we were all discovering things for the first time. However, Douglas was quite clear that there was reason and there was truth and that some things mattered more than others. And for me that is his lasting legacy.

He was always an interesting man to talk to about many things and his humorous articles under the pseudonym 'Plagepeigneur' (Beachcomber) in the Old Bancroftian were always good to read. He once said that he played bridge regularly while at university in Belfast with Philip Larkin, who was Librarian there at the time. What always came over very clearly was his evident affection for Bancroft's and the classical education he had received there many years ago. (With contributions from David Giles, Bob Tatum, Linday Gibbon and Carl Murray).

Richard Green (OB 1949-1957) died on Friday 22 January after a short illness. He was very fond of Bancroft's and spoke of his time at the school warmly. He revisited the school during the Open House weekend of September last, and was impressed at how the School has managed to remain current and yet maintain its links with its fine traditions.

Katie Perez, née Pollock (OB 1980-1985) passed away in early December 2015. Her funeral at St John's Church in Buckhurst Hill was well attended by many

Old Bancroftians. Katie was in East House and will always be remembered for her sunny nature and wide smile - and an amazing St Trinian's party! Her parents owned the ski shop in Loughton, Pollocks, and she worked there for a while along with her brother. Her mum was great at squeezing many of us into her estate car along with kit bags to save us the walk to West Grove! After then working in a restaurant in Queens Road and marrying Carlos, Katie bought Butlers Retreat in Chingford and was famed for her breakfasts there.

Katie leaves three children, Michael, who also attended Bancrofts, Elena, and Laila. She also leaves a twin sister Bridgette and brother Ivon. Those of us who were at school with Katie will always remember her happy disposition and generous nature. She will be sadly missed by many.

Janice Bissett née Evans (1980-1987) and Michelle Slater (1980-1987)

Brian Skelt (OB 1939-1945) sadly passed away in December 2014.

Professor David Taylor (OB 1937-1940) died suddenly on 5th December 2015. He enjoyed his few years at Bancroft's and had happy memories of them.

Andrew Fairservice (OB 1949-57) passed away peacefully at Elmwood Care Home, Bickley, Kent on Saturday, 23rd January 2016.

Brian Terry (OB 1946-1953) passed away on 31 May 2015. Brian stipulated in his Will that he was to be cremated with a simple humanist Committal. So, it was my privilege to lead the Memorial Service, not in my capacity as a Catholic Priest, but simply as Brian's friend for 68 years.

Brian was born in Ilford, the only child of Ethel and Jim Terry.

Brian arrived at Bancroft's before me in 1946: he must have been even then something of a prodigy - for

he was only nine years old when he was accepted at Bancroft's – but he actually started at the School on his 10th birthday. For two years he was still the youngest boy in the School. I can't tell you the number of times he rehearsed that story. Our School years were happy ones – but I'm not sure that Brian really ever enjoyed the runs that we had to do on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Leaving School, he gained entrance to Oxford to read English Literature, including doing Anglo-Saxon – Brian commented that this was 'doing this properly' and not avoiding historical English – as did certain other Universities that he didn't want to mention.

He graduated and found a job teaching, being proposed for a School whose Headmaster was an Old Bancroftian!

Brian and I were both in the Royal Air Force – at different times and at different levels. Brian was doing National Service and, very unusually for National Service RAF entrants, he was commissioned. It was surely his mental agility, education and sundry gifts that raised him above other ranks of National Servicemen. And he had been Under Officer in the Combined Cadet Force whilst he was a sixth former at Bancroft's.

Brian eventually gave up teaching and went into the business of Pensions Management. His greatest and most entertaining characteristic was his memory, his attention to detail and his retention of facts and his ability to quote chunks of Shakespeare and all the plays that he has figured in. On that score, he was a well-known figure in AmDram society, and often found himself in the local paper to rave reviews.

When you've known someone for 68 years, it's impossible to recall everything that you'd like to say, so I am at a loss to go further - only to say that I shall miss him, but the

memoirs that I have garnered over nearly seven decades are a rich and comforting harvest from a true and unforgettable friend.

Michael J Butler (OB 1947-1952)

Air Commodore John Mitchell (OB 1929-35), a member of Winston Churchill's personal flight crew during World War Two died on the 5 February aged 97. John was the navigator on the prime minister's personal aircraft, called Ascalon. He and the rest of the crew flew Churchill to the Yalta and Tehran conferences.

Passengers included George VI, who so much enjoyed his time on board that he appointed the crew members of the Royal Victorian Order.

Air Cmdr Mitchell was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and spent a short time in the United States before returning in 1942 and being assigned to Ascalon.

He married Brenda Stroud a year after; when they met she was working for MI5 so neither was able to tell the other what they did.

Before he retired in 1974, he was Director of Air Intelligence at the MoD.

Brenda passed away in 2000 and the couple are survived by two sons.

Jeremy Bromfield spoke with Air Cmdr Mitchell last year about his memories of his time at Bancroft's, for his new book about the School's history and was amazed at his detailed recollections of his time there.

For the full obituary, please visit the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-35549028> #

It is with sadness that we report that *Rio Thomas-Oyenuga* (OB 2006-2014) died on Saturday 8 November just a few days after his 21st birthday.

Rio was such a determined young man who inspired all who knew him, and not least by the way in which he remained positive and persevered with his education despite the health challenges he faced on a daily basis.

Rio was such an integral part of life at Bancroft's and it was here that he forged some of his closest friendships. Those friendships stood the test of time and sustained Rio through the increasing challenges that he faced throughout his school career.

Joy Collins from Learning Support said: 'My lasting memory of Rio is the huge smile that he had. He had a wonderful sense of humour and we would share amusing stories on our journeys around the school. He always had a big smile for his friends when he saw them in the corridors or when I returned to class at the end of a lesson to accompany him to his next lesson and their fondness for him reciprocated with a smile too. This was an indication of the warmth his smile created and its infectiousness.'

There is a lovely story told about Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition, when the staff were bombarded by complaints from a few participants who were collapsed on the ground at their feet, complaining that they had had to carry their heavy back packs when at the very same moment Rio's mates arrived over the hill carrying Rio as well as their backpack - only after Rio had pushed himself to his absolute limits.

Who could fail to be inspired by a young man who was irrepressible in his determination not to let the difficulties he faced hold him back from fulfilling his dreams. He lived life on his terms and as far as he possibly could, defied his illness by refusing to let it define him.

With thanks to Rev Ivan Moore

SPOT THE TEACHER!

Over the coming editions, we will be highlighting the changing face of the SCR across the generations by including some staff photos collated by archivist Jeremy Bromfield.

You can test your memory by trying to name all the staff members – you'll find all the answers on page 5.

To start off we include photos from 1975, when the Head was Ian Richardson and the hairstyles long, and 2009, with current Head, Mary Ireland at the helm.



OBA Facebook Page

The OBA Facebook page now has more than 880 members.

Join at:

www.facebook.com/groups/obabancrofts

to receive the latest news and events.

Prefer email?

If you would prefer to receive the OBA Newsletter by email, please contact Susan Day at:

susan.day@bancrofts.org or why not update all details via our survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/obaupdate2016>

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